

USPTO Customer No. 25280
Serial No: 10/679,217

Inventor(s): Mannion et al
Case No: 5646

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thoughtful comments in the most recent Office Action.

Claims 3, 14 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Pending claims are 1-2, 4-5, 11-13, 16-17, and 21-23.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, six items are listed needing attention on the claims (numbered in the Office Action #2-7 on page 2 of the Office Action). Applicant has attended to each of these six minor clarifications, as requested.

Section 112 Issues:

In the Office Action, several minor issues are raised, all of which are corrected by the above amendment. First, the recitation in the preamble has been changed, to clarify the claims. Second, the "small size" language was deleted. Third, the "less than about" language was changed. Fourth, the antecedent basis with regard to "composition" was corrected.

It is believed that the above claims patentably define over the prior art record, as indicated by the Office Action, and that the application is in complete condition for allowance. In the most recent Office Action, the Examining Attorney acknowledged the patentability of the subject matter of the invention over all cited prior art.

Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, however, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

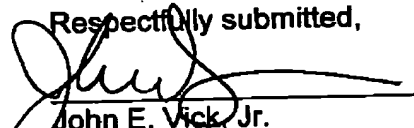
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Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



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